

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request acknowledgement of their claim for priority under §120.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,834) in view of Imamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,444). Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Applicants traverse this rejection because neither Yoshikawa et al. nor Imamura et al. disclose or suggest a main actuator arm having at least one piezoelectric element disposed on the main actuator arm, in the vicinity of a front end of the main actuator arm, as in amended claim 1.

Yoshikawa et al. disclose a head actuator having an actuator body 6 and merely one arm, support arm 5 (FIG. 6). A piezoelectric element 8 is provided on the support arm 5 in the vicinity of the fixed end, adjacent the rotating shaft 6a, not at the front end of the main actuator arm, as in the present invention.

Imamura et al. disclose a head actuator having an access arm 2 which pivots about a support shaft 6 on a first end. On a second end of the access arm 2, a support spring 3 is attached. Piezoelectric elements 14 are formed on the support spring 3, not the access arm 2. Thus, although Imamura et al. disclose two arm-like structures, the piezoelectric elements 14 are not disposed on a main actuator arm, but are merely disposed on the support spring 3.

Even the combination of these references would not produce a device having a piezoelectric element on the end of the main actuator arm. This is strong evidence of non-obviousness. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The above amendments to the claims, in view of the foregoing remarks, are believed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner should call Applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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